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(54) **MOVEABLE HOUSING OF A MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE**

(75) Inventors: **Kabir Siddiqui**, Sammamish, WA (US);
Quintin R. Morris, Issaquah, WA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Microsoft Technology Licensing, LLC**,
Redmond, WA (US)

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USPC **455/575.4**; **D14/138 AD**
See application file for complete search history.

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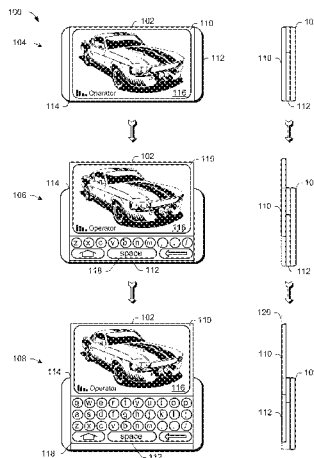
(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Brian Haslam; Kate Drakos; Micky Minhas

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ABSTRACT

Mobile communications devices having moveable housings are described. In an implementation, a mobile communications device includes a first housing that includes a display device; and a second housing that includes a keyboard. At least one of the first or second housings are moveable between a first configuration in which the first housing substantially covers the second housing so the keyboard is covered and the display device is viewable and a second configuration in which the keyboard is exposed and positioned such that an outer plane of the keyboard is positioned in a substantially similar plane to that of an outer surface of the display device.

20 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets



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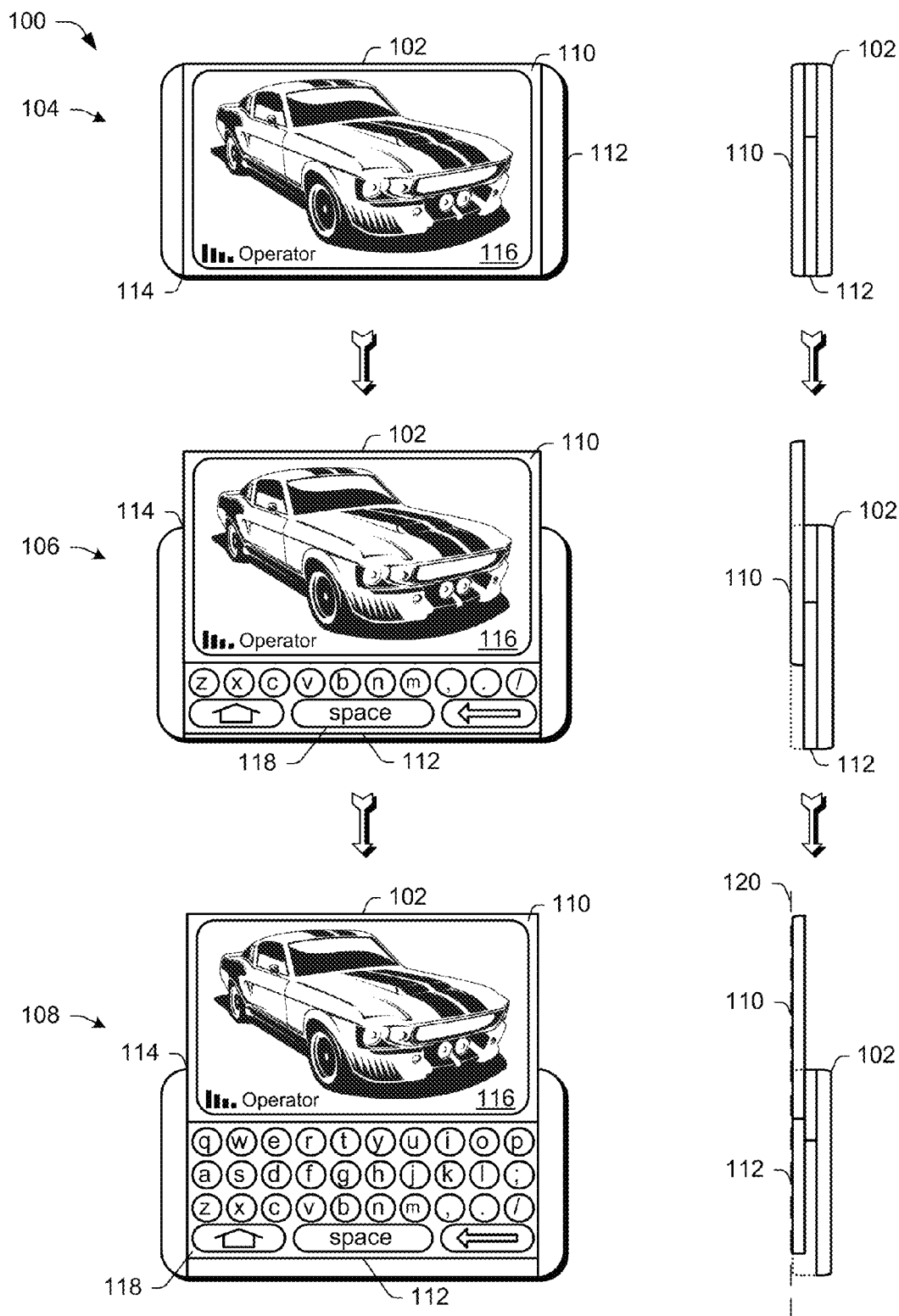


Fig. 1

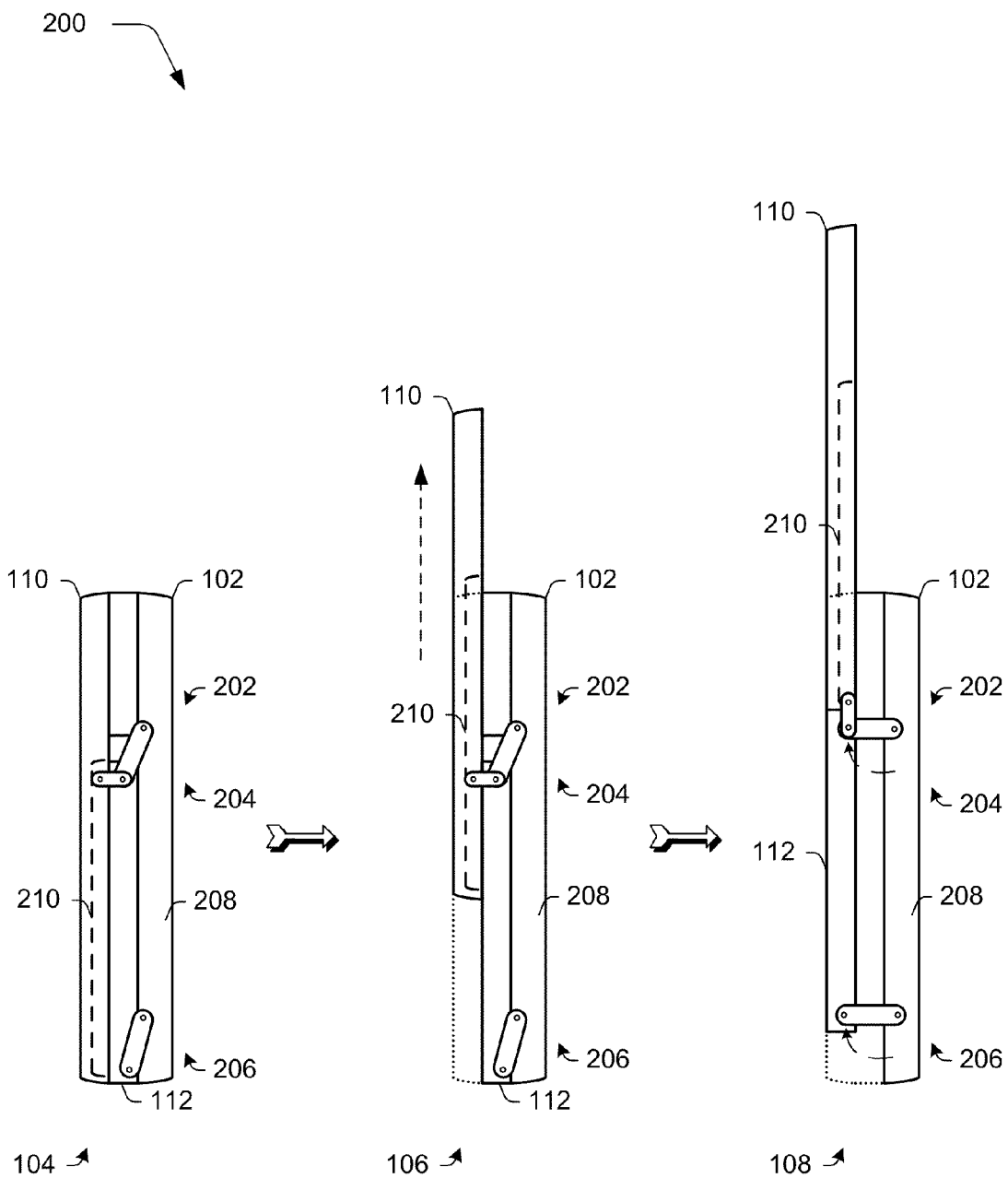


Fig. 2A

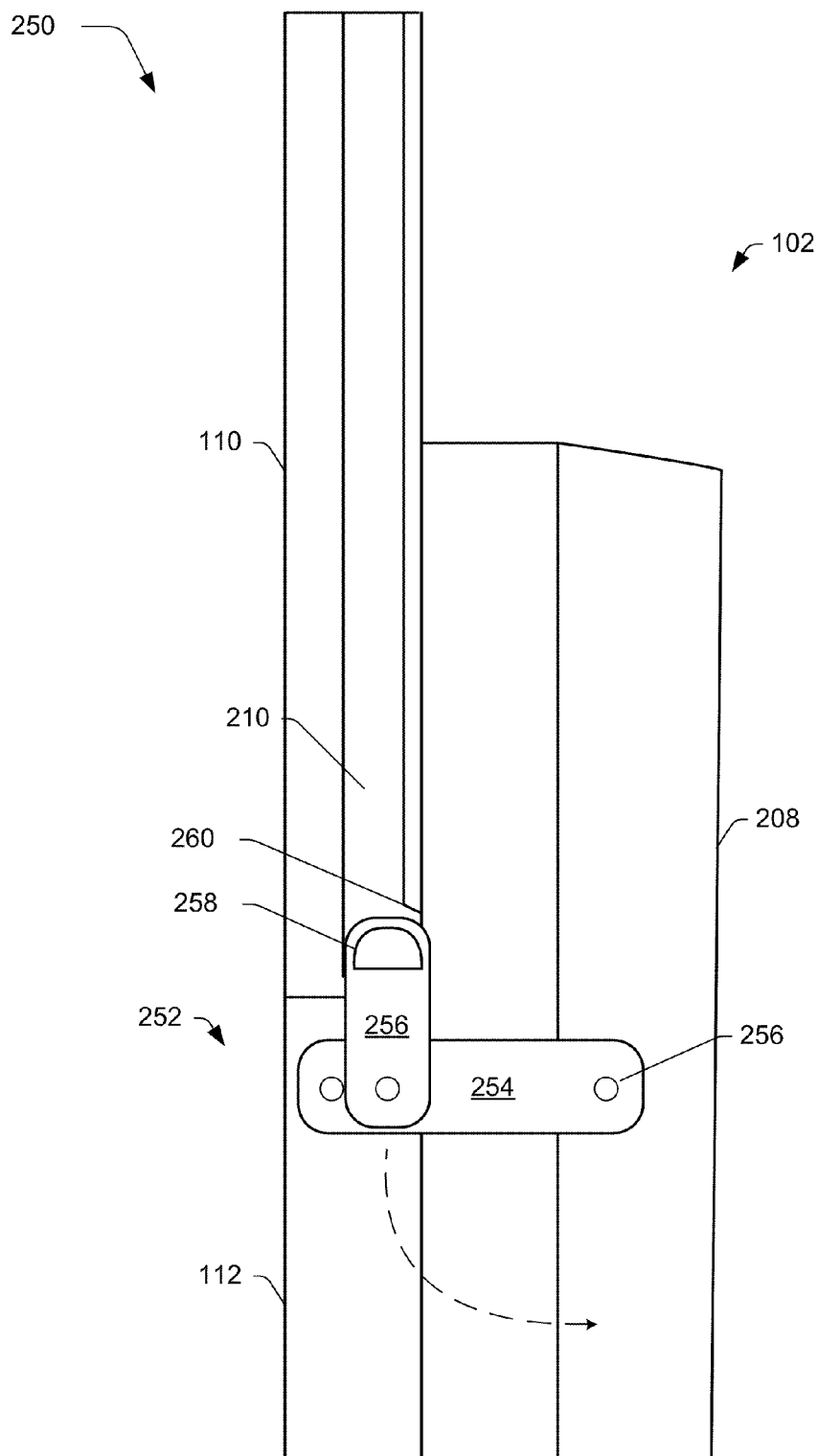


Fig. 2B

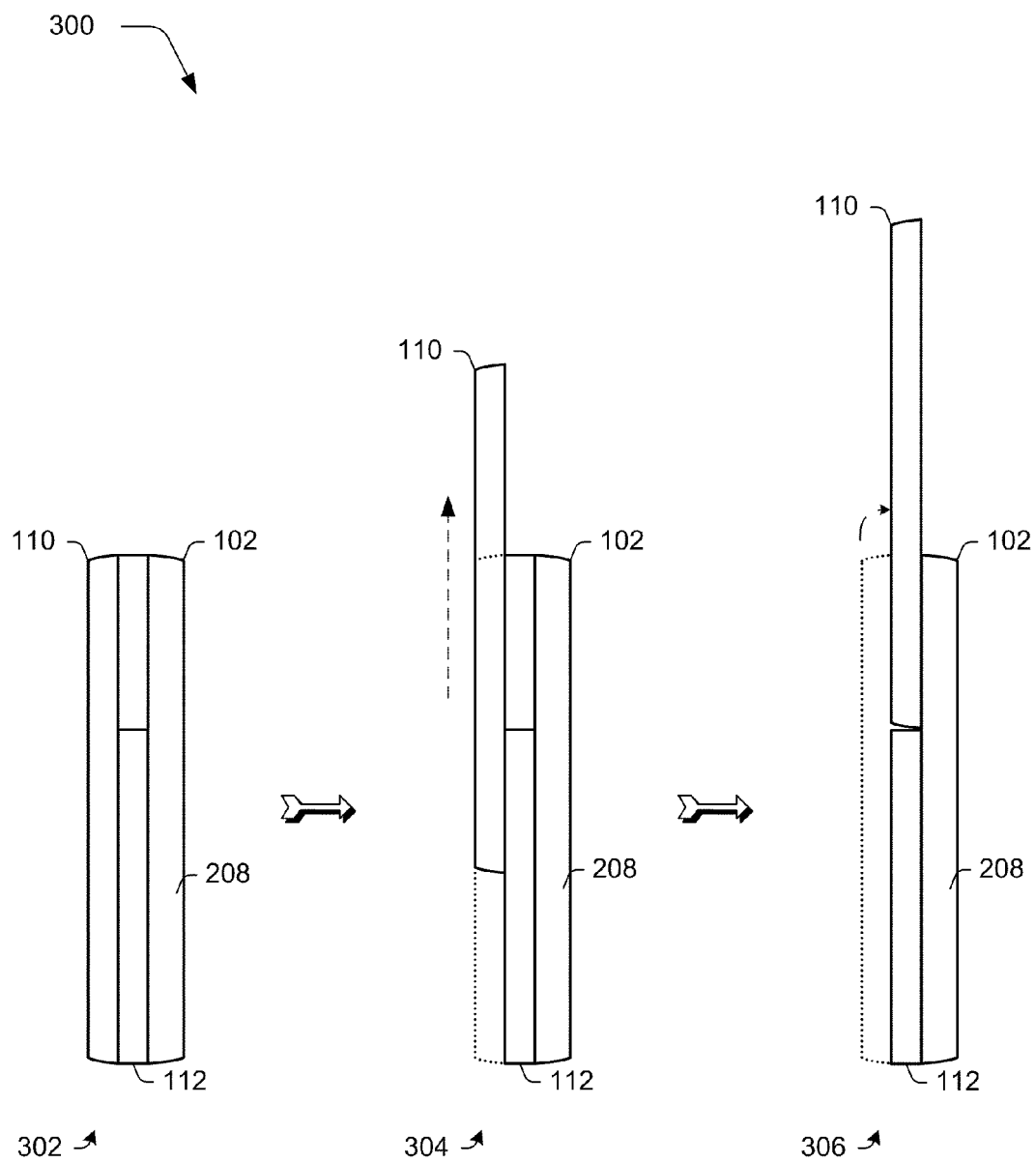


Fig. 3

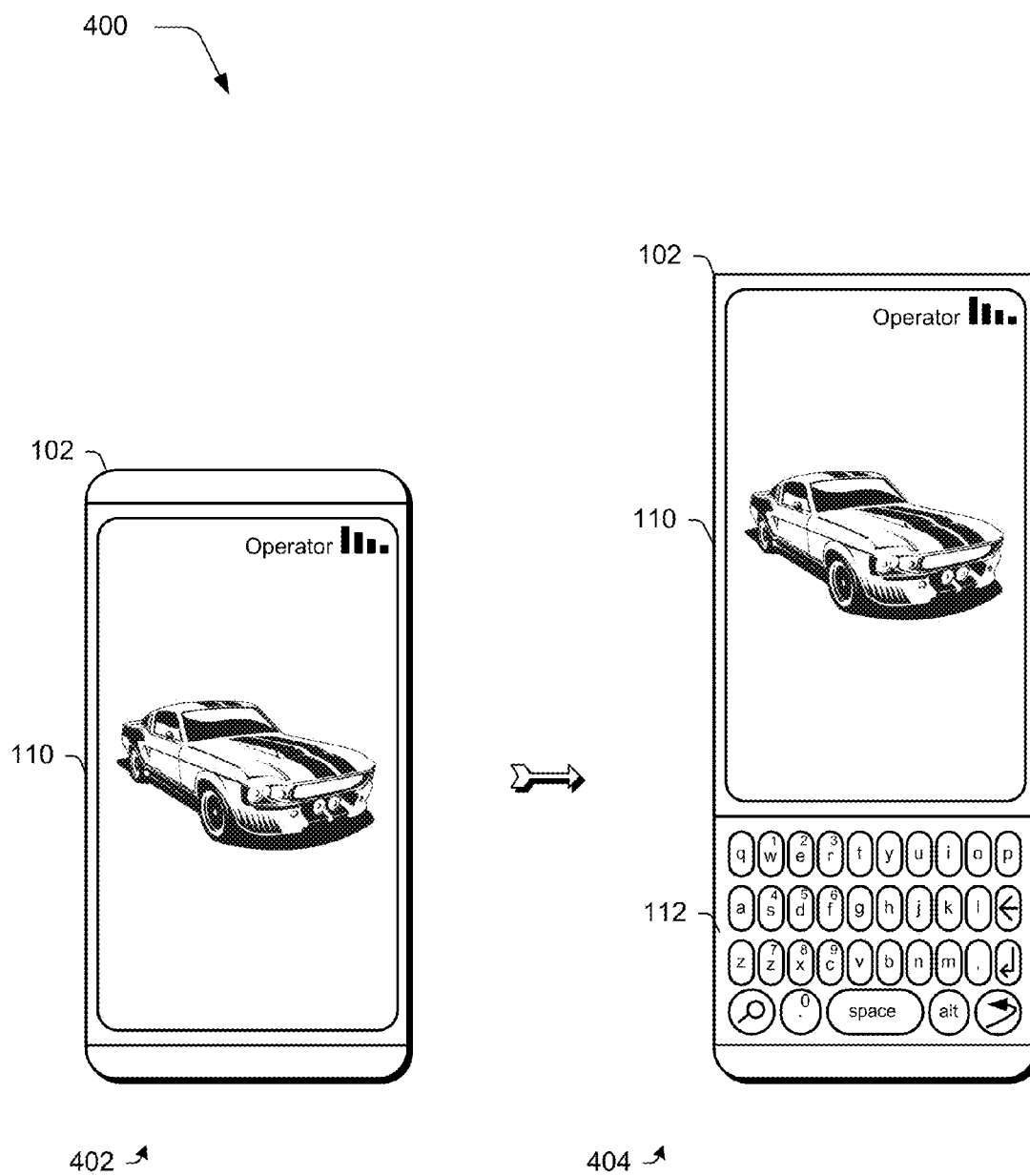


Fig. 4

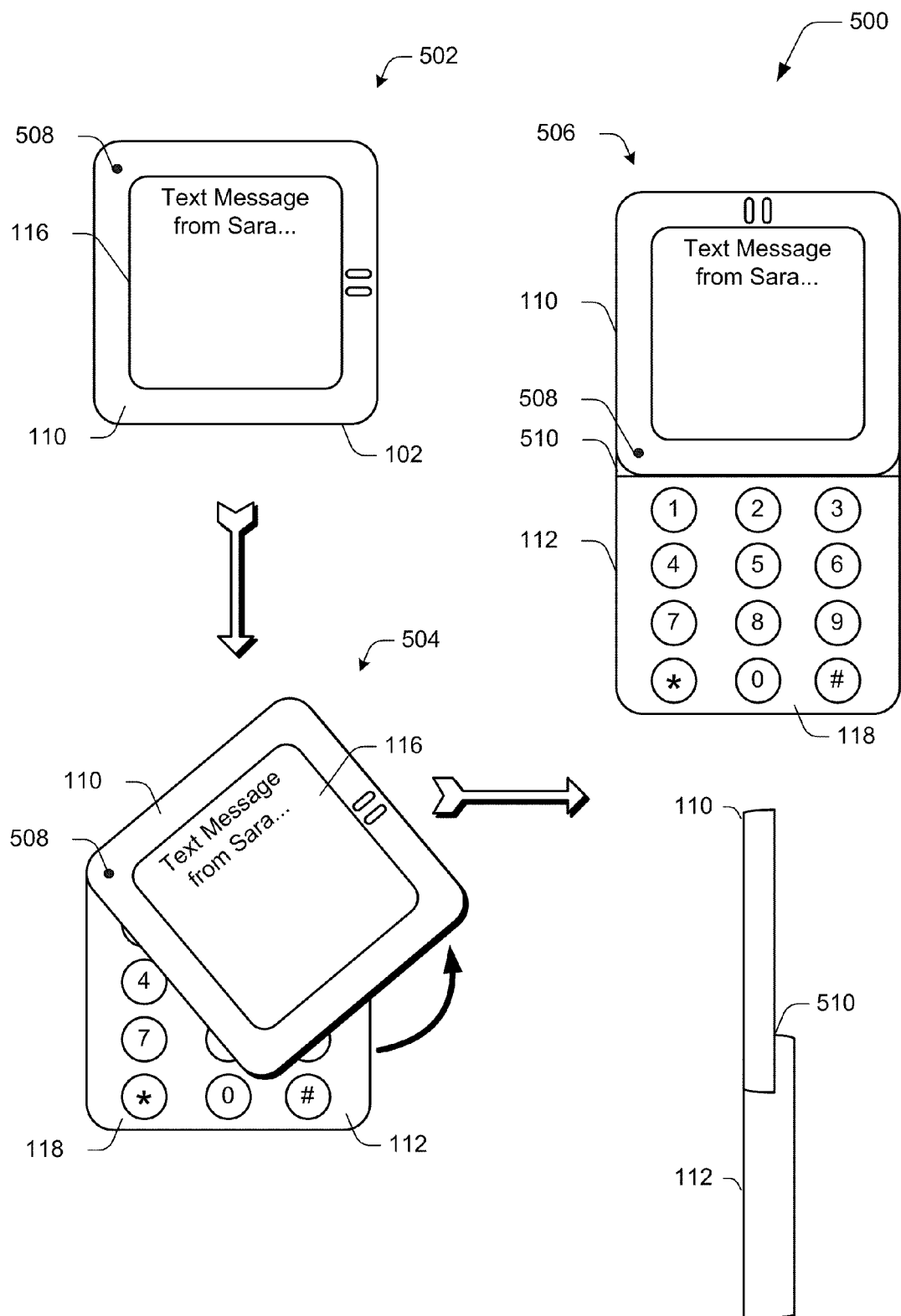



Fig. 5

600 

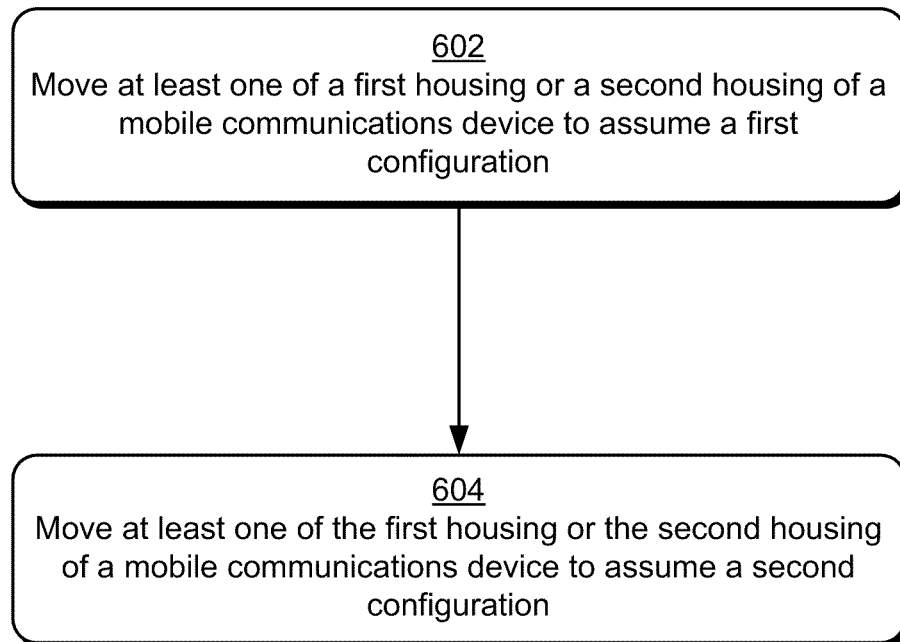
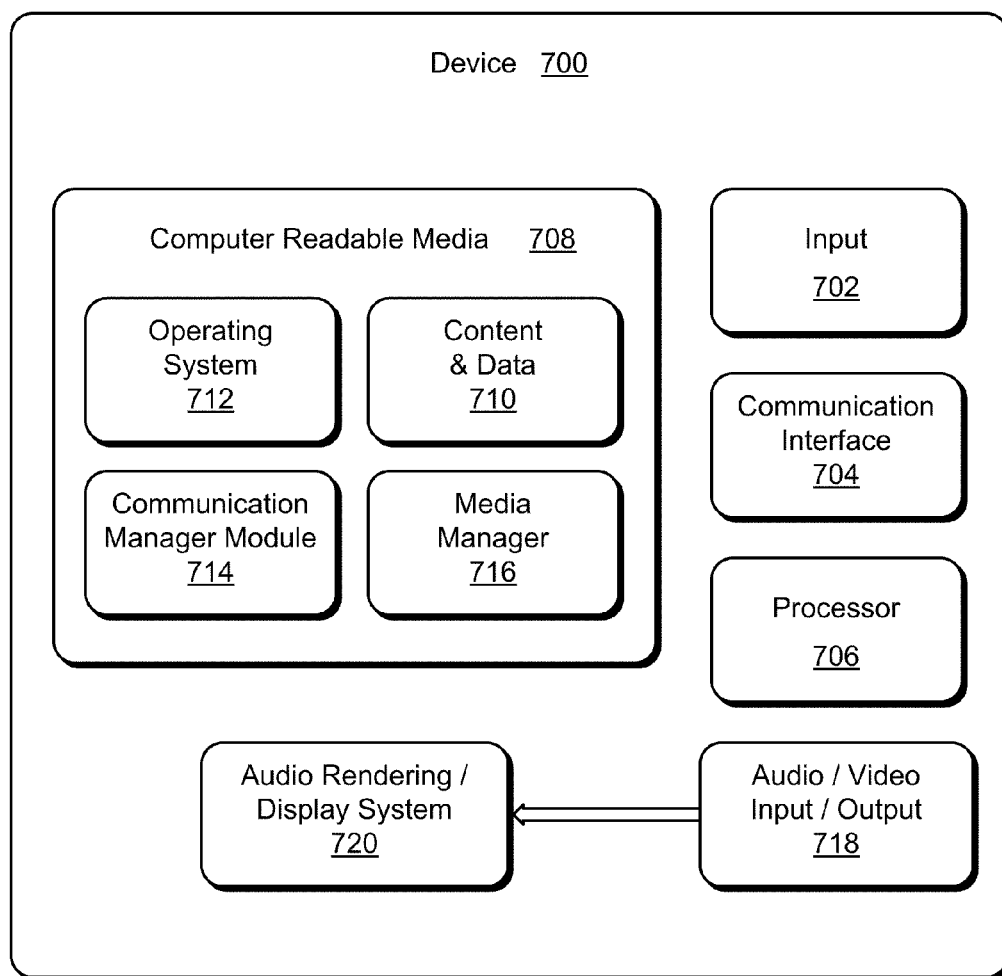


Fig. 6

*Fig. 7*

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MOVEABLE HOUSING OF A MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE

BACKGROUND

Mobile communications devices (e.g., wireless phones) have become an integral part of everyday life. For example, a user traditionally used mobile communications devices to place and receive telephone calls when the user was away from a fixed communication device, e.g., a house or office telephone. In some instances, the mobile communications device became the primary device via which the user communicated with other users as the user became accustomed to the convenience and functionality of the device.

Further, the communication techniques that may be employed using a mobile communications device have increased, from voice communication to text messaging and emails. Accordingly, a wide variety of form factors have been employed by the mobile communications device to accommodate this functionality. Once such form factor involved a sliding keyboard and display such that the keyboard could be “hid” behind the display when not in use. However, this traditional form factor involved placement of the display at a significant distance from the keyboard so that a user could interact with the keyboard without interference from the display device. This placement could result in a variety of undesirable consequences, such as a smaller keyboard, increase in size of the mobile communications device, and so on.

SUMMARY

Mobile communications devices having moveable housings are described. In an implementation, a mobile communications device includes a first housing that includes a display device and a second housing that includes a keyboard. At least one of the first or second housings are moveable between a first configuration in which the first housing substantially covers the second housing so the keyboard is covered and the display device is viewable and a second configuration in which the keyboard is exposed and positioned such that an outer plane of the keyboard is positioned in a substantially similar plane to that of an outer surface of the display device.

In another implementation, a method includes moving at least one of a first housing or a second housing of a mobile communications device to assume a first configuration. The first housing includes a display device and the second housing includes a keyboard. In the first configuration, the display device is viewable, and the keyboard is covered. The method also includes moving at least one of the first housing or the second housing of the mobile communications device to assume a second configuration in which the keyboard is exposed and positioned such that an outer plane of the keyboard is positioned in a substantially similar plane to that of an outer surface of the display device and the display device is viewable.

In a further implementation, a mobile communications device includes a first housing that includes a display device and a second housing that includes a keyboard. The first and second housings are moveable between a first configuration in which the first housing substantially covers the second housing so the keyboard is covered and a second configuration in which the keyboard is exposed by sliding the first housing, which causes the second housing to be raised such that an outer plane of the keyboard is positioned in a substantially similar plane to that of an outer surface of the display device.

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This Summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the Detailed Description. This Summary is not intended to identify key features or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used as an aid in determining the scope of the claimed subject matter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The detailed description is described with reference to the accompanying figures. In the figures, the left-most digit(s) of a reference number identifies the figure in which the reference number first appears. The use of the same reference numbers in different instances in the description and the figures may indicate similar or identical items.

FIG. 1 is an illustration of an example implementation of an example mobile communications device in accordance with one or more embodiments of devices, features, and systems for mobile communications.

FIG. 2A is an illustration of an example embodiment showing a mobile communications device of FIG. 1 as employing a mechanism involving a linkage to raise a keyboard to be positioned along a substantially similar plane to that of a display device.

FIG. 2B is an illustration of another example embodiment showing a mobile communications device of FIG. 1 as employing another mechanism involving a linkage to raise a keyboard to be positioned along a substantially similar plane to that of a display device.

FIG. 3 is an illustration of an example embodiment showing a mobile communications device of FIG. 1 as using movement to position the first housing that includes a display device into a substantially similar plane as a second housing that includes a keyboard.

FIG. 4 depicts an example embodiment showing a mobile communications device as using movement along a height of device to position the first housing that includes a display device into a substantially similar plane as a second housing that includes a keyboard.

FIG. 5 is an illustration of an example embodiment showing a mobile communications device of FIG. 1 employing a mechanism involving a pivot to raise a keyboard to be positioned along a substantially similar plane to that of a display device.

FIG. 6 is a flow diagram that depicts a procedure in an example implementation in which housings of a mobile communications device are moved to first and second configurations.

FIG. 7 is an illustration of various components of an example device that can be implemented in various embodiments as any type of a mobile communication device to implement embodiments of devices, features, and systems for mobile communications.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Overview

Users continually desire increased functionality from mobile communications devices, e.g., wireless phones, mobile messaging devices, calendaring devices, and so on. However, inclusion of this increased functionality in traditional mobile communications devices may make these devices more cumbersome and therefore less suitable to mobile applications as traditionally configured.

One traditional design that was developed to accommodate this functionality was a “slide type” device in which the

keyboard slides under the display. However, when the keyboard is open in this traditional design, the keyboard is positioned in a plane that is different from the display device to facilitate the sliding of the display device. For example, the keyboard may be positioned significantly “lower” than the display device, e.g., equal to or greater than a height of the housing. Consequently, the top row of the keyboard in this traditional design was positioned at least a minimum distance from the display so that a user’s fingers could press the keys of the keyboard without interference from the display. However, the size of the overall device may be increased and/or the size of the keys of the keyboard decreased to provide this distance, which resulted in a design of the device that was inefficient and cumbersome.

A mobile communications device is described having at least one moveable housing to position a keyboard and a display device in a substantially similar plane. For example, a first housing may include a display device that is slideable to expose a second housing having the keyboard. The sliding of the first housing having the display device in this example may cause the second housing having the keyboard to be raised through a linkage. In this way, the keyboard and the display device may be positioned in a substantially similar plane. This may enable the keyboard and the display device to be positioned closer as the bottom edge of the first housing that includes the display device will not interfere with the fingers of the user when typing. A variety of other examples are also contemplated (e.g., movement of the first housing to be positioned in the plane of the second housing having the keyboard), further discussion of which may be found in relation to the following sections.

In the following discussion, a variety of example implementations of a mobile communications device are shown. Additionally, a variety of different functionality that may be employed by the mobile communications device is described for each example, which may be implemented in that example as well as in other described examples. Accordingly, example implementations are illustrated of a few of a variety of contemplated implementations. Further, although a mobile communications device having one or more modules that are configured to provide telephonic functionality are described, a variety of other mobile communications devices are also contemplated, such as dedicated messaging devices, portable game devices, music players, and so on.

Example Implementations

FIG. 1 is an illustration of an example implementation 100 of a mobile communications device 102 in accordance with one or more embodiments of devices, features, and systems for mobile communications. The mobile communications device 102 is illustrated as assuming a plurality of configurations, examples of which include a first configuration 104, a second configuration 106, and a third configuration 108. Additionally, in each configuration the mobile communications device 102 is shown from a front view and a side view in left and right columns, respectively, in the example implementation of FIG. 1.

The mobile communications device 102 is further illustrated as including a first housing 110 and a second housing 112 that are connected via a slide 114 such that the first and second housings 110, 112 may move (e.g., slide) in relation to one another. The first housing 110 includes a display device 116 (e.g., a touchscreen) that may be used to output a variety of data, such as a caller identification (ID), information related to text messages as illustrated, email, multimedia messages, Internet browsing, game play, music, video and so on. The second housing 112 is illustrated as including a keyboard 118 that may be used to provide inputs to the mobile

communications device 102. Although the keyboard 118 is illustrated as a QWERTY keyboard, a variety of other examples are also contemplated, such as a twelve key numeric pad.

In the example shown in FIG. 1, the first and second housings 110, 112 of the mobile communications device 102 are rectangular. For example, a plane defined by an outer surface of the display device 116 may be parallel to a plane of the first housing 110 that approximates a rectangle in the first configuration 104. In another example, the width and height of the plane taken from the first housing that is parallel to the other surface of the display device 116 are approximately square (e.g., one-to-one so as to be equilateral rectilinear, an example of which is illustrated in FIG. 5). A variety of other examples are also contemplated.

In the first configuration 104, the mobile communications device 102 is closed such that the first housing 110 covers the second housing 112. Consequently, the keyboard 118 disposed on the second housing 112 is covered and thus is not available to receive inputs from a user of the mobile communications device 102. In an implementation, telephonic functionality is still available when the mobile communications device 102 is in the first configuration 104, e.g., to receive and answer a telephone call via interaction with the display device 116 or other buttons disposed either of the first and/or second housings 108, 110.

In the second configuration 106, the first housing 110 is moved (e.g., slid) “away” from the second housing 112 using the slide 114. In this example configuration, a portion of the keys of the keyboard 118 is exposed such that the exposed keys are available to receive inputs from a user. In another implementation, however, use of the keys of the keyboard 116 is restricted until the mobile communications device 106 assumes the open configuration illustrated in the third configuration 108 to help prevent inadvertent inputs. In an implementation, the planes of the first and second housings 110, 112 that are used to define the form factor are parallel to each other and positioned along a substantially similar plane, although other implementations are also contemplated.

In the third configuration 108, the first housing 110 is moved further “away” from the second housing 112 using the slide 114. In this example configuration, at least a majority of the keys of the keyboard 118 are exposed and are available to receive inputs from a user. Accordingly, the third configuration 108 may be considered an “open” configuration. In the illustrated implementation 100, the display device 116 remains viewable by a user in each configuration, examples of which are shown in the first, second, and third configurations 104, 106, 108.

As shown in the side views of the first, second, and third configurations 104, 106, 108, the second housing 112 that includes the keyboard 118 is “raised up” as the first housing 110 that includes display device 116 is slid. For example, in the first configuration 104, the second housing 112 is covered by the first housing 110. Thus, the first and second housings 110, 112 are positioned in different planes, which may be defined using the outer surfaces of the housings.

In the second configuration 106, the first housing 110 that includes the display device 116 is slid “upward” in the illustration. Once the first housing 110 clears the second housing 112, e.g., is slid past the second housing 112, the second housing 112 is raised until both the first and second housings 110, 112 reside along a substantially similar plane 120 defined by their respective outer surfaces. In this way, the outer surfaces of the keyboard 118 and the display device are moved closer together than in the first configuration 104. For instance, the outer surface of the display device 110 and the

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keyboard **118** (e.g., a “top” of the keys and/or the portion of the second housing **112** that contains the keys) may be substantially equal, such as separated by a distance approximately equal to or less than the height of the keys. A variety of different mechanisms may be employed to position the first and second housings **110**, **112** in a substantially similar plane, an example of which may be found in relation to the following figure.

FIG. 2A depicts an example embodiment **200** showing the mobile communications device **102** of FIG. 1 as employing a mechanism involving a linkage to raise a keyboard to be positioned along a substantially similar plane to that of a display device. As before, the mobile communications device **102** is illustrated in the first, second, and third configurations **104**, **106**, **108**.

In the first configuration, the mobile communications device **102** is arranged so that the first housing **110** covers the second housing **112**. A mechanism **202** is also illustrated that includes first and second linkages **204**, **206**. The first linkage **204** is pivotably attached to the second housing **112** and to a third housing **208**. In this example, the first and third housings **110**, **208** at least partially surround and cover the second housing **112** when in the first configuration **104**. The second linkage **206** is also pivotably attached to the second and third housings **112**, **208**.

The first linkage **204** also includes a member that is configured to slide along a channel **210** in the first housing **110**. As shown in the second configuration **106**, for instance, the first housing **110** is slid upward as indicated by the arrow. During this movement, the first linkage moves through the channel **210** in the first housing until reaching an end of the channel **210**. At this point, as shown in the third configuration **108**, the member of the first linkage **204** that slid through the channel **210** causes the second housing **110** to be raised by the first and second linkages **204**, **206** by pivoting on the third housing **208**. Thus, in this example, a top of the second housing **112** contacts a bottom of the first housing **110** such that the first housing **110** does not interfere with a user's interaction with the keyboard **118** of the second housing **112**.

It should be readily apparent that this example implementation **200** employs but one of a variety of different mechanisms that may be utilized to position the first and second housings **110**, **112** in a substantially similar plane. For example, a single pivot of the linkage may be attached between the sides of the second and third housings and used to pivot the keyboard upward. Another example is shown in the next figure.

FIG. 2B is an illustration of another example embodiment **250** showing a mobile communications device of FIG. 1 as employing another mechanism involving a linkage to raise a keyboard to be positioned along a substantially similar plane to that of a display device. The first housing **110** having the display device **116**, the second housing **112** having the keyboard **118**, and the third housing **208** are coupled via a linkage **252**.

The linkage **252** includes a connecting link **254** and an activating link **256**. As arranged in the embodiment **250** of FIG. 2B, the first housing **110** and the activating link **256** move at the same speed as the first housing **110** slides. However, the second housing **112** having the keyboard **118** is attached to the end of the connecting link **254** moves faster than the first housing **110** having the display device **116**. This is due to the distance from a pivot **256** of the connecting link, which is greater than a distance of the activating link **256** from the pivot **256**. This allows the second housing **112** to move faster than the first housing **110**, thereby “clearing the way” for the first housing **110** to slide over the second housing **112**.

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In the illustrated embodiment **250**, the activating link **256** also includes a member **258** that is configured to engage a stopper **260**, which is an edge of the channel **210** in the first housing **110** in this example. The stopper **260** is configured to prevent the sliding of the activating link **256** until the activating link **256** rotates approximately ninety degrees. This is due to engagement of the member **258** with the stopper **260** until the member **258** assumes an orientation that permits it to be slid through the channel **210**. In this way, movement of the first housing **110** causes a force to be applied to the activating link **256**, which in turn causes the connecting link **254** to pivot. This pivoting causes the second housing **112** to rotate “out of the way” to permit the first housing **110** to slide over the second housing **112**. A variety of other examples are also contemplated, such as rearrangement of the connection points and pivots of the linkage **252** to achieve similar functionality.

Although FIGS. 1, 2A, and 2B illustrated movement of the second housing **112** into the plane of the first housing **110**, a variety of other examples are also contemplated, an example of which may be found in relation to the following figure.

FIG. 3 depicts an example embodiment **300** showing the mobile communications device **102** of FIG. 1 as using movement to position the first housing that includes a display device into a substantially similar plane as a second housing that include a keyboard. This example embodiment also shows first, second, and third configurations **302**, **304**, **306** of the mobile communications device **102**.

In the first configuration **302**, the mobile communications device **102** is arranged so that the first housing **110** and the third housing **208** covers and at least partially surrounds the second housing **112**. In the second configuration **304**, the first housing **110** that includes the display device **116** is slid to at least partially expose the keyboard **118** of the second housing **112**.

In the third configuration **306**, however, the first housing **110** is moved into a substantially similar plane to that of the second housing **112**. For example, the first housing **110** may be pivoted, “dropped down,” and so on such that the first and second housing **110**, **112** are positioned along a matching plane. For instance, the outer surfaces of the display device **116** and the keyboard **118** may be positioned approximately at planes that are less than a height of the keys of the keyboard **118** less than a width of one or more of the housings, and so on to be closer to each other than in the first configuration **302**. A variety of other examples are also contemplated, such as movement of both the first and second housings **110**, **112** to meet at a substantially similar plane that is between their original positioning. Additionally, although movement that involves sliding along a width of the mobile communications device **102** has been described, a variety of different movements are contemplated to position the first and second housing in substantially similar planes, further discussion of which may be found in relation to the following figure.

FIG. 4 depicts an example embodiment **400** showing a mobile communications device as using movement along a height of the device to position the first housing that includes a display device into a substantially similar plane as a second housing that includes a keyboard. In the previous implementations the first housing **110** slid along the width of the device. It should be also readily apparent that the movement may also be along the height of the device, as shown in the first and second configurations **402**, **404** of FIG. 4. Additionally, although sliding movement has been described, a variety of different movements may be employed to position the first

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and second housings **110**, **112** in substantially similar planes, an example of which may be found in relation to the following figure.

FIG. **5** is an illustration of an example implementation **500** of a mobile communications device **102** in accordance with one or more embodiments of devices, features, and systems for mobile communications. The mobile communications device **102** is illustrated as assuming a plurality of configurations, examples of which include a first configuration **502**, a second configuration **504** and a third configuration **506** that are achieved through rotating one or both of the first or second housings **110**, **112**.

The first housing **110** and the second housing **112** are connected via a pivot **508** such that the first and second housings may rotate, one to another. As before, the first housing **110** includes a display device **116** (e.g., a touchscreen) that may be used to output a variety of data, such as a caller identification (ID), information related to text messages as illustrated, email, multimedia messages, Internet browsing, game play, music, video and so on. The second housing **112** is illustrated as including a keyboard **118** that may be used to provide inputs to the mobile communications device **102**.

In the first configuration **502**, the mobile communications device **102** is closed such that the first housing **110** covers the second housing **112**. Consequently, the keyboard **118** disposed on the second housing **112** is covered and is not available to receive inputs from a user of the mobile communications device **102**.

In the second configuration **504**, the first housing **110** is rotated “away” from the second housing **112** using the pivot **508**. Therefore, in the second configuration **504** at least a portion of the keyboard **118** disposed on the second housing **112** is exposed.

In the third configuration **506**, the mobile communications device **102** is illustrated in both a front view and a side view. In this configuration, the first housing **110** has been rotated ninety degrees with respect to the second housing **112**. At least a majority of the keys of the keyboard **118** is exposed such that the exposed keys are available to receive inputs from a user. Accordingly, this configuration may be considered an “open” configuration. As further shown in the third configuration **506**, once the first housing **110** is rotated the ninety degrees, it may fit down into an indentation **510** in the second housing **112**. For example, the pivot **508** may be biased through use of a spring to force the first and second housings **110**, **112** together. This causes the first and second housings **110**, **112** to be positioned along a substantially similar plane as shown in the side view of the third configuration **506**. In the illustrated implementation **500**, the display device **116** remains viewable by a user in the first, second, and third configurations **502**, **504**, **506**.

Example Procedures

The following discussion describes mobile communications device techniques that may be implemented utilizing the previously described systems and devices. Aspects of each of the procedures may be implemented in hardware, firmware, or software, or a combination thereof. The procedures are shown as a set of blocks that specify operations performed by one or more devices and are not necessarily limited to the orders shown for performing the operations by the respective blocks. In portions of the following discussion, reference will be made to the environment **100** of FIG. **1** and the embodiments **200**, **250**, **300**, **400**, **500** of FIGS. **2-5**, respectively.

FIG. **6** is a flow diagram that depicts a procedure **600** in an example implementation in which housings of a mobile communications device are moved to first and second configurations. At least one of a first housing or a second housing of a

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mobile communications device is moved to assume a first configuration (block **602**). For example, in the first configuration the display device is viewable and the keyboard is covered. The first housing includes a display device and the second housing includes a keyboard. Examples of the first configuration may be found in FIGS. **1**, **4**, and **5**.

At least one of a first housing or a second housing of a mobile communications device is moved to assume a second configuration (block **604**). For example, in the second configuration the keyboard is exposed and positioned such that an outer plane of the keyboard is positioned in a substantially similar plane to that of an outer surface of the display device and the display device is viewable. Examples of the second configuration may also be found in FIGS. **1**, **4**, and **5**.

Example Device

FIG. **7** illustrates various components of an example device **700** that can be implemented in various embodiments as any type of a mobile communication device to implement embodiments of devices, features, and systems for mobile communications. For example, device **700** can be implemented as any of the mobile communication devices **102** described with reference to respective FIGS. **1-5**. Device **700** can also be implemented to access a network-based service, such as a content service.

Device **700** includes input(s) **702** that may include Internet Protocol (IP) inputs. Device **700** further includes communication interface(s) **704** that can be implemented as any one or more of a wireless interface, any type of network interface, and as any other type of communication interface. A network interface provides a connection between device **700** and a communication network by which other electronic and computing devices can communicate data with device **700**. A wireless interface enables device **700** to operate as a mobile communication device for wireless communications.

Device **700** also includes one or more processors **706** (e.g., any of microprocessors, controllers, and the like) which process various computer-executable instructions to control the operation of device **700** and to communicate with other electronic devices. Device **700** can be implemented with computer-readable media **708**, such as one or more memory components, examples of which include random access memory (RAM) and non-volatile memory (e.g., any one or more of a read-only memory (ROM), flash memory, EPROM, EEPROM, etc.).

Computer-readable media **708** provides data storage to store content and data **710**, as well as device applications and any other types of information and/or data related to operational aspects of device **700**. For example, an operating system **712** can be maintained as a computer application with the computer-readable media **708** and executed on processor(s) **706**. Device applications can also include a communication manager module **714** (which may be used to provide telephonic functionality) and a media manager **716**.

Device **700** also includes an audio and/or video output **718** that provides audio and/or video data to an audio rendering and/or display system **720**. The audio rendering and/or display system **720** can be implemented as integrated component(s) of the example device **700**, and can include any components that process, display, and/or otherwise render audio, video, and image data. Device **700** can also be implemented to provide a user tactile feedback, such as vibrate and haptics.

Generally, the blocks may be representative of modules that are configured to provide represented functionality. Further, any of the functions described herein can be implemented using software, firmware (e.g., fixed logic circuitry), manual processing, or a combination of these implementations. The terms “module,” “functionality,” and “logic” as

used herein generally represent software, firmware, or a combination of software and firmware. In the case of a software implementation, the module, functionality, or logic represents program code that performs specified tasks when executed on a processor (e.g., CPU or CPUs). The program code can be stored in one or more computer readable memory devices. The features of the techniques described above are platform-independent, meaning that the techniques may be implemented on a variety of commercial computing platforms having a variety of processors.

Although the invention has been described in language specific to structural features and/or methodological acts, it is to be understood that the invention defined in the appended claims is not necessarily limited to the specific features or acts described. Rather, the specific features and acts are disclosed as example forms of implementing the claimed invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A mobile communications device comprising:

a first housing that includes a display device;

a second housing that includes a keyboard;

a third housing movably attached to the first housing and the second housing by a first linkage, the first linkage attached to the first housing via at least a channel and attached to the second housing via a first fixed pivot, the third housing further movably attached to the second housing by a second linkage, the second linkage attached to the second housing via a second fixed pivot; and

at least one of the first or second housings are moveable between:

a first configuration in which:

the first housing substantially covers the second housing so the keyboard is covered and the display device is viewable; and

the third housing is on a separate plane than the first housing and the second housing;

a second configuration in which the keyboard is exposed and positioned by:

pivoting the first housing in relation to the third housing by sliding the first linkage along the channel in the first housing;

pivoting the second housing in relation to the third housing by rotating the first and second linkages about the first and second fixed pivots, respectively, such that an outer plane of the keyboard is positioned along a matching plane to that of an outer surface of the display device; and

maintaining a position of the third housing on the separate plane; and

when moving between the second configuration and the first configuration, the second housing moves faster than the first housing to enable the first housing to slide over the second housing.

2. A mobile communications device as described in claim 1, wherein the outer plane of the keyboard is not positioned along the plane to that of the outer surface of the display device in the first configuration.

3. A mobile communications device as described in claim 1, wherein the first housing is moveable:

to be positioned along the plane in the second configuration; and

is not positioned along the plane in the first configuration.

4. A mobile communications device as described in claim 1, wherein the second housing is moveable:

to be positioned along the plane in the second configuration; and

is not positioned along the plane in the first configuration.

5. A mobile communications device as described in claim 1, wherein movement of at least one of the first housing or the second housing includes sliding.

6. A mobile communications device as described in claim 1, wherein movement of at least one of the first housing or the second housing includes pivoting.

7. A mobile communications device as described in claim 1, wherein a bottom of the first housing contacts a top of the second housing in the second configuration.

8. A mobile communications device as described in claim 1, wherein the display device is viewable in both the first and second configurations.

9. A mobile communications device as described in claim 1, wherein a plurality of keys of the keyboard is arranged accordingly to a QWERTY configuration.

10. A method as described in claim 1, wherein the first and third housings at least partially surrounding the second housing in the first configuration.

11. A mobile communications device as described in claim 1, further comprising one or more modules that are configured to provide telephonic functionality.

12. A mobile communications device as described in claim 11, wherein the telephonic functionality is configured to be accessed by a user when in the first configuration and when in the second configuration.

13. A method comprising:

moving at least one of a first housing or a second housing of a mobile communications device, the first housing movably attached to a third housing by a linkage via at least a channel and the second housing movably attached to the third housing by the linkage via at least a fixed pivot, the moving including moving the second housing faster than the first housing to enable the first housing to slide over the second housing, to arrange a first configuration in which:

the third housing is on a separate plane than the first housing and the second housing;

a display device of the first housing is viewable; and a keyboard of the second housing is covered; and

moving both the first housing and the second housing of the mobile communications device in a similar direction to arrange a second configuration in which:

the keyboard is exposed and positioned such that an outer plane of the keyboard is positioned along a matching plane to that of an outer surface of the display device by pivoting the first housing in relation to the third housing by sliding the linkage along the channel in the first housing and pivoting the second housing in relation to the third housing by rotating the linkage about the fixed pivot;

the third housing is maintained on the separate plane;

the display device is viewable; and

the first housing does not cover the second housing.

14. A method of claim 13, wherein the second configuration is assumed by raising the second housing in relation to the first housing.

15. A method of claim 13, wherein the second configuration is assumed by movement that includes sliding the first housing.

16. A method of claim 13, wherein the second configuration is assumed by lowering the first housing in relation to the second housing.

17. A mobile communications device comprising:

a first housing that includes a display device;

a second housing that includes a keyboard; and

a third housing movably attached to the first housing and the second housing by a linkage, the linkage attached to

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the first housing via at least a channel and attached to the second housing via at least a fixed pivot;
the first and second housings are moveable between:

a first configuration in which:

the first housing substantially covers the second housing so the keyboard is covered; and

the third housing is on a separate plane than the first housing and the second housing; and

a second configuration in which the keyboard is exposed by:

pivoting the first housing in relation to the third housing by sliding the linkage along the channel in the first housing;

pivoting the second housing in relation to the third housing by rotating the linkage about the fixed pivot, such that an outer plane of the keyboard is positioned along a matching plane to that of an outer surface of the display device; and

maintaining a position of the third housing on the separate plane.

18. A mobile communications device as described in claim 17, wherein the linkage causes the second housing to be raised in response to the sliding of the linkage.

19. A mobile communications device as described in claim 17, wherein a bottom of the first housing contacts a top of the second housing in the second configuration.

20. A mobile communications device as described in claim 17, wherein the outer plane of the keyboard is not positioned along the plane to that of the outer surface of the display device in the first configuration.

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